WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

alteration means for altering the content of a first image file, read from a recording medium, in

5   accordance with a user's instruction, and generating a second image file; and

control means for, if authentication data is added to said first image file, recording said second image file onto said recording medium without deleting

10   said first image file.

2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second image file is recorded in the same folder as a folder in which said first image file is

15   recorded.

3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second image file is recorded in a folder different from a folder in which said first image file

20   is recorded.

4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second image file is recorded on a recording medium different from the recording medium on

25   which said first image file is recorded.

5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if a content of said first image file is altered, said authentication data is deleted from said second image file.

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6. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein information on said first image file is added to said second image file.

10 7. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a part of a file name of said second image file is the same as a part of a file name of said first image file.

15 8. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said image processing apparatus is an image sensing apparatus.

9. An image processing method:

20   an alteration step of altering the content of a first image file, read from a recording medium, in accordance with a user's instruction, and generating a second image file; and

    a control step of, if authentication data is
25 added to said first image file, recording said second image file onto said recording medium without deleting said first image file.

10. The image processing method according to claim 9,
wherein said second image file is recorded in the same
folder as a folder in which said first image file is

5   recorded.

11. The image processing method according to claim 9,
wherein said second image file is recorded in a folder
different from a folder in which said first image file

10   is recorded.

12. The image processing method according to claim 9,
wherein said second image file is recorded on a
recording medium different from the recording medium on

15   which said first image file is recorded.

13. The image processing method according to claim 9,
wherein if a content of said first image file is
altered, said authentication data is deleted from said

20   second image file.

14. The image processing method according to claim 9,
wherein information on said first image file is added
to said second image file.

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15. The image processing method according to claim 9,
wherein a part of a file name of said second image file

is the same as a part of a file name of said first
image file.

16. The image processing method according to claim 9,
wherein said image processing method is performed in an
image sensing apparatus.

17. A computer program for realizing by a computer the
respective steps of the image processing method
according to claim 9.

18. A computer-readable recording medium holding the
computer program according to claim 17.